

## Executive Summary

Missouri, like many other states, has experienced the effects of an extended overall economic slowdown over the last several years. A limitation on general revenue growth has caused the Department of Mental Health to face core budget reductions, withholds and staff layoffs for several consecutive years. This has required the Department to focus on protecting current services and programs, while attempting to maximize the use of other funding sources.

The Department of Mental Health and the Division of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services continue to meet these challenges by cooperating with other state agencies to enhance existing services and programs and developing innovative ways to serve consumers. Recent initiatives within the Department have focused on areas such as quality assurance, practice guidelines, and prevention of illnesses and disability. Particular focus has been given to development of a comprehensive system of care for both adults and children. SB 1003, passed during the 2004 legislative session, formalized a children's comprehensive mental health plan that offers families access to mental health care without relinquishing custody of their child. Section II, State Plan Context for Children, Youth, and Adults provides an overview of the programs, services, and initiatives that have been developed to better serve Missouri's citizens with mental illness and severe emotional disturbances.

Involvement and inclusion of consumers, providers, and advocates in the planning, monitoring, and evaluation of programs continues to be a high priority for the Department. Advocates and consumers are involved with a variety of activities and committees to advise the Department on prioritizing needs and developing responsive policies and programs. Recent efforts have included training consumers to be more effective advocates in the legislative process.

Throughout the adversities and challenges caused by difficult economic times and limited funding, the Department of Mental Health has continued to pursue its vision – *“Missourians shall be free to live their lives and*

*pursue their dreams beyond the limitations of mental illness, developmental disabilities, and alcohol and drug abuse.”* The Division of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services has continued to work towards meeting its goals to provide accessible community-based services, quality residential services, available and affordably housing, and family focused children’s services.